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1927

A Book for Garden Lovers

DELPHINIUM
DAHLIAS
SEEDS



F. C. BURNS

San Rafael, - - California

DELPHINIUM

THE Delphinium is a hardy perennial and an old garden favorite. Their brilliant flower spikes arrest your attention even at a distance. The foliage is attractive and the plants strong and neat in habit. By keeping the plants well watered and the flowers cut a second crop of bloom may be had and in some localities a third. After years of crossing and selection I eliminated the darker shades and obtained plants showing perfectly double flowers with a tendency to be frilled. From these plants I have fixed a new strain which is very robust, has excellent branching habits and is very rarely affected with mildew.

The colors are indeed difficult to describe. All shades of blue and lavender pink are included, forming a wonderful combination rarely seen in the floral world except in the orchid. In the cut of the Burns Delphinium shown in this issue, shows one of the seed parents of this strain. The outer row of petals are light blue, and the inner row lavender pink—an altogether ideal combination. Most people never realize the charming beauty and valuable decorative qualities of these wonderful flowers until they have personally arranged them or seen their appeal when the florist's art properly presents it. I prefer to use the lighter shades, especially the lavender and blue types, for they harmonize in decorative work with any style or color effect of a given room. I use them in combinations with many flowers, preferably loose types. They always make a well balanced design in the garden. In fact, a few well placed Delphinium spikes always seem to emphasize the appeal of flowers when used in proper proportion.

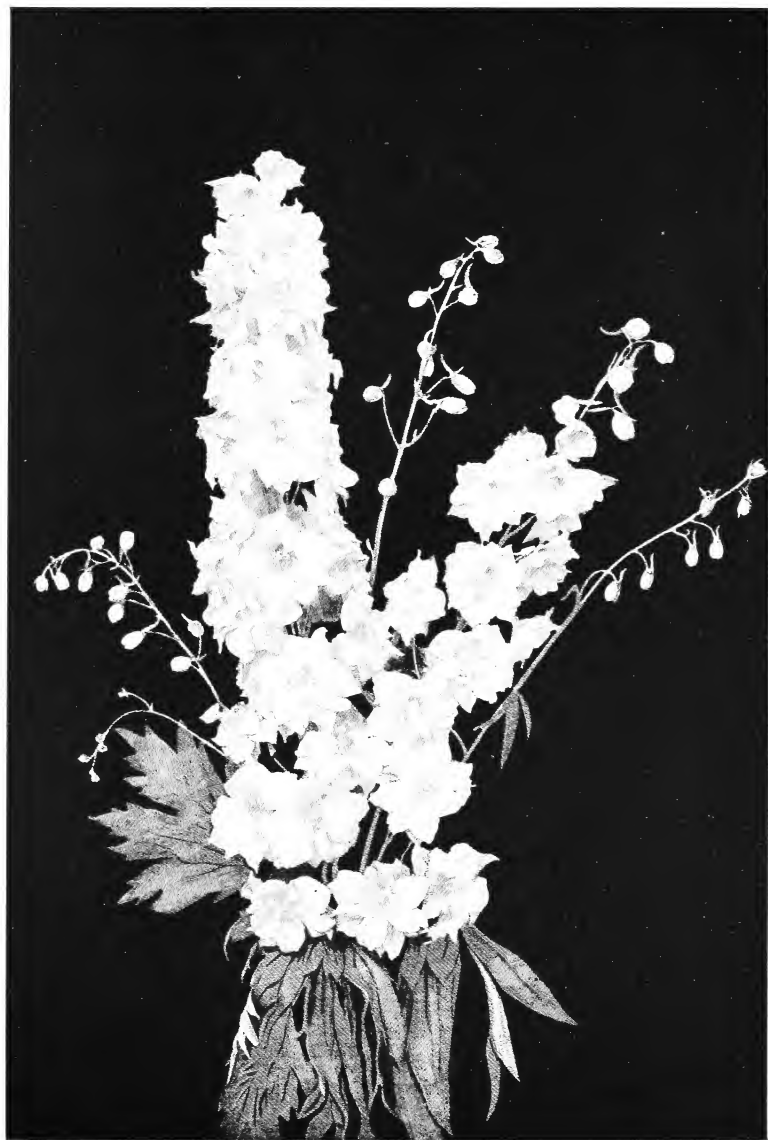
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Read Better Delphiniums Magazine, it is worth the price of \$1.00 per year. Is now the official medium of the new American Delphinium Society. Let us enroll you for both—\$2.00 per year.

PLANTS

BURNS HYBRID DELPHINIUMS (mixed seedlings)—

One year old strong plants	-	-	\$3.00 per dozen
Two year old strong plants	-	-	\$6.00 per dozen



LILIAC LADY (Burns)

CULTIVATION NOTES

UNDER favorable conditions, if the seed is planted early, they will show small spikes the first year, but generally the best spikes are obtained the second year.

Sow the seed from March until September according to climatic conditions. Seed sown in July and August can be left in the boxes all winter and will make fine plants for bedding out in the spring. Level the seed soil, press it down firmly and proceed to plant the seeds. Sow thickly if intending to afterward flat the plants, or thinly if planned to stay in original box. Barely cover the seed. Practically every seed failure is due to too deep planting or to surface drying during germination stages. Germinating seeds need constant moisture and even temperature. Perhaps seed soil matters are the most important of all stages of growing plants from seed, and usually the least attended to. Proper seed soil, proper surface air conditions, proper moisture and drainage, and steady low temperatures will invariably provide every condition for germination of seeds of any kind.

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DELPHINIUM PLANTS can be transplanted very easily during their dormant season and after they are three years old they may be divided if the clumps are large enough; do not use the knife more than is necessary but try to break the crown apart. Plant them at the same level they were before, spreading the roots and pressing down firmly. Do not use any manure or fertilizer near the roots. Delphiniums are quick growing plants and need plenty of moisture and a moderate amount of fertilizer. When watering give a good soaking which keeps the roots down deep.

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NAMED VARIETIES

LILAC LADY—

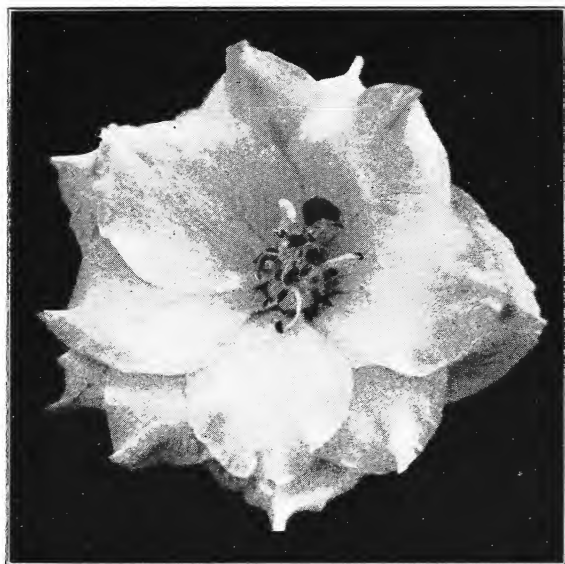
A beautiful double flower with a pleasing combination of lilac and light blue. The flowers are large and well placed. This variety is very robust, growing to the height of six feet with a three foot spike, with many branching laterals. Strong Plants—\$2.50 each

SUMMER SKIES—

This Delphinium has unusual color shading. The flowers are large and double. The outer edge of the petals are light blue shading to a darker blue in the center. Very free bloomer. Strong plants—\$2.50 each

CALIFORNIA BLUE KING—

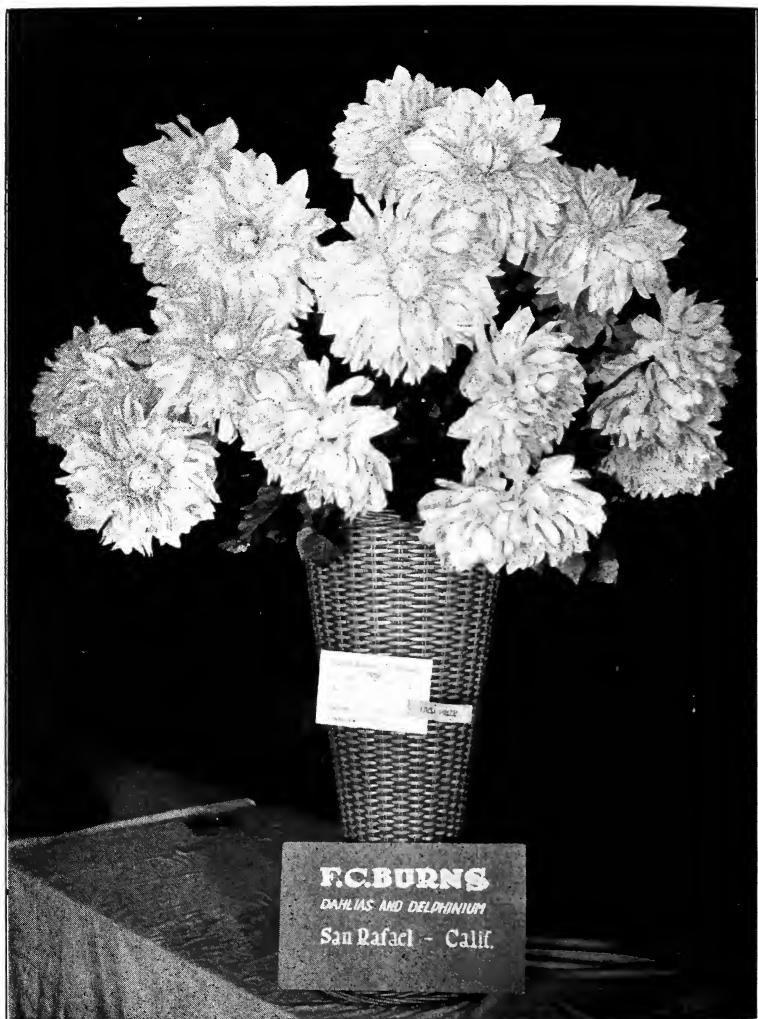
A very striking combination. The flowers are double and very large. The outer row of petals are a dark blue while the inner row is a very deep orchid. This is an unusual flower and will add to any collection. A strong growing plant. Strong plants—\$2.50 each



SUMMER SKIES (Burns)



CALIFORNIA BLUE KING (Burns)



QUEEN OF THE GARDEN BEAUTIFUL

"QUEEN OF THE GARDEN BEAUTIFUL"

SENSATIONAL NEW DAHLIA

A flower that fulfills the dream of Dahlia lovers. One of the largest of all Dahlias, measuring from nine to twelve inches across, and five to six inches deep, grown without forcing. The stems are unusually strong and it is a wonderful keeper. The following is an extract from the San Francisco Examiner, 1925:

"Frank C. Burns of San Rafael, yesterday was awarded the Samuel W. Heller flower prize for the most meritorious Dahlia in the show being conducted at the Palace Hotel by the Dahlia Society of California. Ten growers were in competition for the most important flower prize ever awarded in this country. The prize was allocated to the Dahlia this year by the regents of the University of California, who also named Professors G. W. Gregg and W. A. Shepherd of the university horticultural department in collaboration with Carl Salbach and J. H. Hughes, named by the Dahlia Society. Burns' dahlia is a gigantic lemon-colored decorative type of bloom, named "Queen of the Garden Beautiful." It is a magnificent specimen and was pronounced a perfect type by the judges, scoring 94 points."

This Dahlia was a prize winner from coast to coast in 1926, taking first for the largest Dahlia in the San Francisco Show.
TUBERS \$7.50 each

S E E D

\$1.00 per packet containing about 500 seeds. The Burns Hybrid Delphinium seed is sold direct from the garden ONLY.

Our customers are the best judges of the merit in our Hybrid Delphiniums. Hundreds of testimonials tell us of superior blooms and of exceptionally good germinating qualities of this strain.

DAHLIA SEED

\$1.00 PER PACKET

Much pleasure can be derived from growing Dahlia seed. Dahlias grow very easily from seed. Plant early, then transplant after danger of frost. They will make large plants the first year. New varieties are produced in this manner. Great care has been exercised in the selection of these seeds. Their record speaks for themselves.

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Due to lack of space and time I have discontinued growing many of my recent introductions of Dahlias. Many of my past introductions such as the Grizzly, Sequoia, Buttercup, Mexico, Oriole Meadowlark, etc., can be bought from any of the leading California growers.

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TERMS—All retail orders are delivered prepaid.

CASH—With order or in advance of shipment.

SEED NOVELTIES

ALSTROEMERIA (Peruvian Lily).....Pkt. 25c
Perennial.

AMARYLLIS—(The Burns Everflowering Hybrids)
Pkt. 50 Seeds, \$1.00
Colors nearly white, rose, red and scarlet. Flowers 8 to 12 inches in diameter, blooming 3 times a year. Foliage always green.

AMARYLLIS—(Philippine Island Crossing)....Pkt. 50 Seeds, \$1.00
A cross between our large flowering hybrids and a Philippine Island specie. Everygreen and blooms more frequently than the other hybrids. Flowers 6 to 8 inches. Colors salmon, redding salmon and light copper.

ANEMONE, Caen or Giant Single—(Mixed).....Pkt. 25c
The flowers come in a great variety of colors. They bloom very early in Spring and make a nice display when planted in a bed or border. Sow seed outdoors from April to June for next Spring's bloom and keep shaded until plants appear.

ANTIRRHINUM MAXIMUM, Snapdragon—(Mixed).....Pkt. 25c
This wonderful new group of Antirrhinums far surpasses anything yet introduced. In habit they are slightly taller than the other group. The flowers are of magnificent size closely placed on the spike.

AQUILEGIA (Long Spurred Columbine).....Pkt. 25c
Charming hardy perennial plants growing from one to three feet high. Large blossoms of clear blue, white, lavender, pink, salmon, yellow and orange.

ESCHSCHOLTZIA (California Poppy)—New Hybrids Mixed
Pkt. 25c
New, large flowering, erect type, containing a large percentage of new shades in Eschscholtzias and includes soft pink, scarlet, chrome, copper, red, scarlet, cream, purple.

LARKSPUR (Double Hardy Annual Varieties).....Pkt. 25c
Exceedingly popular and free flowering hardy annuals, growing 1½ to 3 feet high, their long spikes of flowers on long stems rendering them of exceptional value for cutting purposes. They are of long continued bloom and very bright and showy. Sow in the Fall or Spring.

RANUNCULUS (French Mixed).....Pkt. 25c
These late Spring-blooming plants grow about 9 inches high and should be planted in a cool, partly shaded position. The flowers are double and semi-double and come in a very wide range of attractive colors. Sow the seed outdoors from April to June for next Spring's bloom and keep shaded until plants appear. Superb mixture.

ZINNIA—(Giant Dahlia Flowered) All Colors Mixed.....Pkt. 25c
The plants of this new race are very sturdy and produce many flowers with stout stems, in a wide range of colors. The flowers in full bloom often measure 4 inches in depth and 6 to 8 inches in diameter, closely resembling Show Dahlias.